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ST. IRENAEUS PARISH

CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

1848-1948

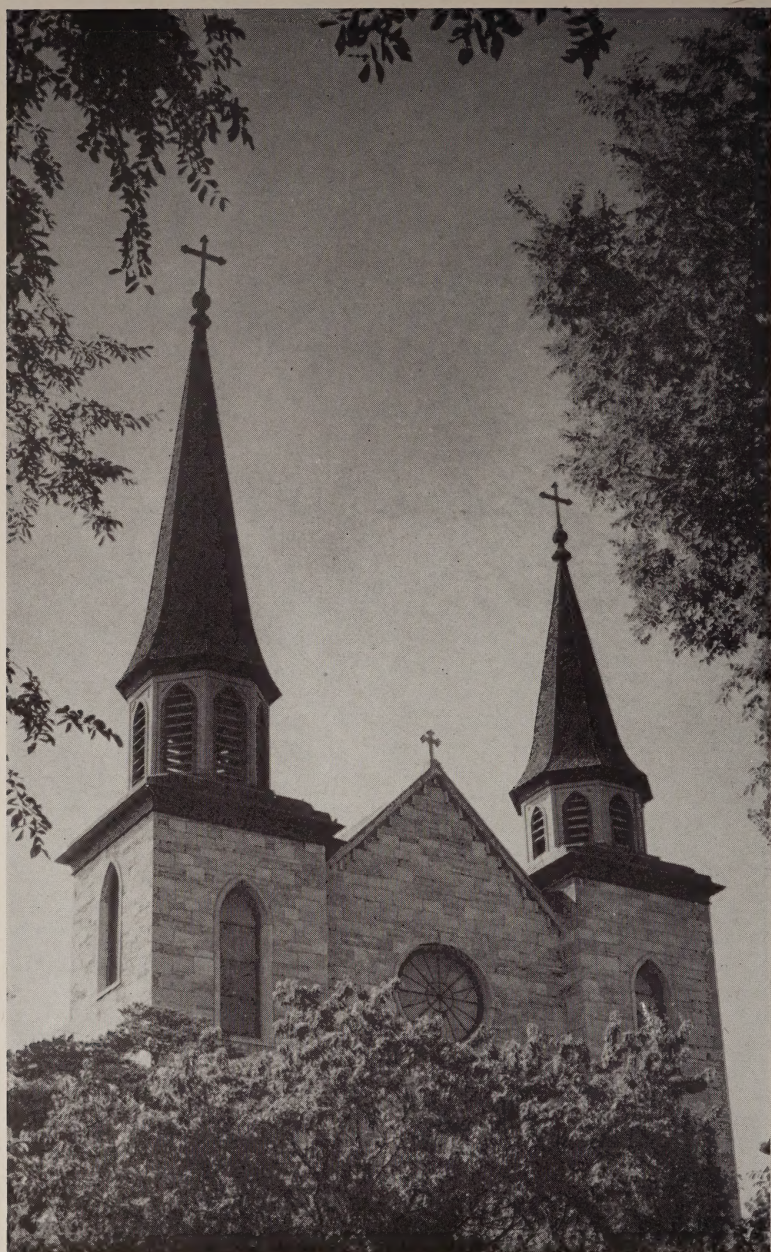
NOVEMBER 18-28, 1948

ST. IRENAEUS PARISH

CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION

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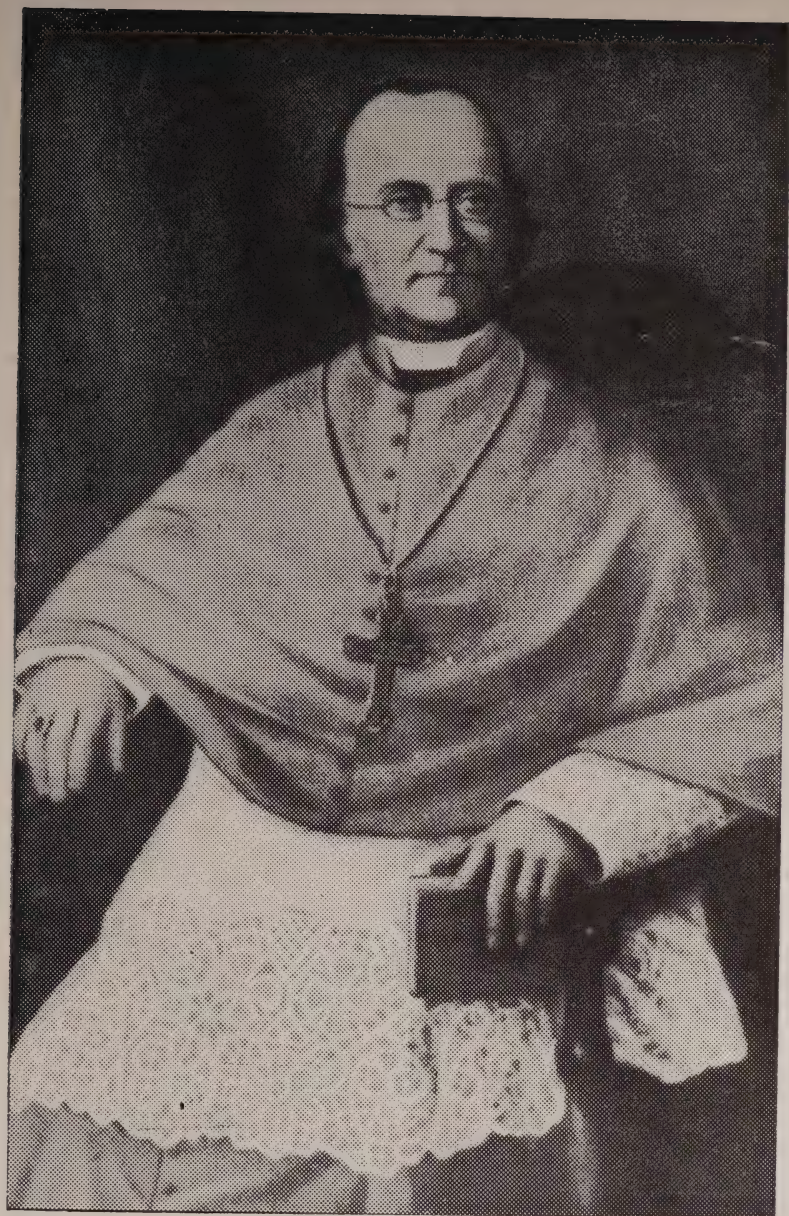
A Review of the
First One Hundred Years



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Clinton, Iowa



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Lyons Named After French City

In the fall of 1835, Elijah Buell and John Baker, two hardy French pioneers, were travelling north on the mighty Mississippi in search of a place to settle. When they reached the narrows of the river at what is now Lyons, both were impressed with the ideal appearance of the land. The one, Baker, decided to build his cabin on the east side of the river, and became the father of Fulton, Illinois. Buell, on the other hand, chose the west side, and built his cabin in what is now Lyons. Being a staunch Frenchman, and impressed with the similarity of the Mississippi and the rushing Rhone, Buell named the settlement Lyons, after that great city in France.

In April of 1837, Buell, along with a small group of neighbors, platted the town and entered it in the federal records.

For some 18 years the little community struggled along with no near neighbors on the west side of the river. In the early part of the '50's the southern part of the present city was platted, and in 1857 a charter was given to Clinton.

The two cities, as well as the villages of Chancy and Ringwood, grew rapidly, due to the strategic position on both the water-ways and the railroads. The two were the greatest lumber centers in the mid-west. In 1895, Clinton, which had already annexed Chancy and Ringwood, brought about the incorporation of the two major cities.

Lyons is located on the rolling hills along the narrows of the river, while Clinton was founded in the swampy regions to the south. Much of the swamp land has been reclaimed, and it is hard to realize that the beautiful land around the County Court House, and all of Riverview park, was at one time completely covered by the Mississippi.

Catholic institutions in the city include five churches, each with a parochial school, one parochial high school, two girls academies, one ladies junior college, a hospital, a home for the aged, and a house of the order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

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History of the Diocese

Like so many of the churches in this area, the founding of the parish came well before the beginning of the diocese to which we now belong. When Bishop Loras of Dubuque first came to the little community of Lyons, his docese was only 11 years old, having been founded in 1837. The good bishop, who is the father of the Catholic Church in Iowa, had only three churches, four missions and three priests in his entire diocese in the early 40's. The Rocky Mountains, on the west, British colonies on the North, Mississippi River on the east, and about the present boundary of Iowa on the south, marked off the area that this little group served.

The Catholic population of the state increased rapidly, however, and by the time of his death in 1858, Bishop Loras had some forty priests in the docese. The growth continued in such a way that in 1882 the diocese of Davenport was established to include all of the southern half of Iowa, with the northern boundary of Clinton County as the division..

Bishop John J. McMullen was the first bishop of the new diocese, and served from 1882 until 1884. One of his first acts was the establishment of St. Ambrose College, which has trained most of the priests to serve the diocese since that time.

Bishop McMullen was succeeded after two years by The Most Reverend Henry J. Cosgrove, who remained as bishop until his death in 1906. He was followed in the sacred position by Bishop James J. Davis, who continued until 1926. In 1926 Bishop Henry P. Rohlmann, now archbishop of Dubuque, succeeded Bishop Davis, and served the Diocese until his elevation in 1944.

Our present Bishop, The Most Reverend Ralph Hayes, came to Davenport in 1944. His flock consists of 126 parishes with resident pastors, 95 mission parishes, 213 priests, 25 high schools, 48 elementary schools, and a Catholic population of 64,432 souls.

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Father Jackson—Our Pastor

Reverend Edward F. Jackson, the present pastor of St. Irenaeus, was assigned to the parish in July of 1933. He came to Clinton from Oskalooska, where he had served as pastor for seven years.

Father Jackson, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was educated at the University of Duquense in Pittsburgh and the Sulpician Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland, before being ordained on June 21, 1910. He was first assigned to Sacred Heart Cathedral in Davenport, and after about a year went to Colfax where he remained for fifteen years.

When he came to St. Irenaeus, he found the church and property run down and in need of repair. A huge debt was on the parish, and it was increasing yearly. He immediately laid plans for the improvement of the property and the paying of the debt. The first steps included the landscaping of the property, repair of the church basement, construction of a chapel in the school hall, and a campaign to raise funds. Holy Cross Cemetery, neglected for years, was cleared off and is now being kept up. St. Irenaeus Cemetery, adjoining the older Calvary Cemetery, was purchased.

In 1935, the parish assisted Father Jackson in the celebration of the 25th anniversary of his ordination. On Sunday, June 23, a solemn high Mass was celebrated to mark the occasion.

Plans were being made for the remodeling of the church and other major improvements, but the war caused postponement of the work. In 1944, the school and rectory were refinished with their present simulated stone exteriors.

Finally, in the summer of 1947, the parish was prepared to begin the work of repairing the interior of the church. Work was continued for over a year and a half, and was just finished before the celebration of the parish centennial.

In fifteen years at St. Irenaeus, Father Jackson has repaired all of the parish buildings, improved the church grounds, made the cemeteries of the parish among the most beautiful of the city, and eliminated the parish debt. St. Irenaeus now ranks with the outstanding parishes of the diocese and boasts of one of the most beautiful churches in the Mid-west.

Father Jackson stands in the hearts of his parishoners as one of the greatest of the men of God who have served the parish.

J. L. Bailey

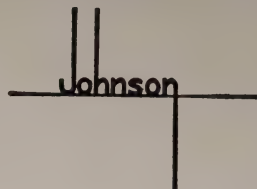
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Former Pastors of St. Irenaeus Church

The following priests have served as resident pastors of the parish —

Reverend F. C. Jean	1851-1872
Reverend F. Spellisy	1872-1873
Reverend T. J. Mackey	1873-1875
Reverend J. Lynch	1875-1875
Reverend W. W. Dunn	1875-1883
Reverend P. Corbett	1883-1884
Reverend Patrick Leahy	1884-1899
Reverend M. B. Murray	1899-1900
Reverend James Comerford	1900-1929
Reverend H. Hogan	1921-1931
Reverend W. Guinan	1931-1933
Reverend Edward F. Jackson	1933-

Assistant pastors include —

Reverend J. Vaughn, Reverend James Brady, Reverend M. Moriarity, Reverend Wm. Schmidt, Reverend Ben Decker, Reverend R. Tregressar, Reverend Raymond McGrath, Reverend John Manning, Reverend Dennis Cahalan, Reverend Francis Mackin, Reverend Emmet Toomy, Reverend James Dolan, and Reverend Francis Marlin.

Reverend W. B. Sondag is the present assistant pastor.

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VIEW OF CHURCH DURING CONSTRUCTION

History of St. Irenaeus Church

In the autumn of the year 1848, when the little town of Lyons was only thirteen years old, Bishop Matthew Loras, of Dubuque, first bishop of Iowa, visited the community and offered Mass in the log home of Michael Daley, at the corner of Ninth and Railroad Streets, now North Third Street and Thirty-second Avenue North. This marked the humble beginning of St. Irenaeus parish.

The visits of the clergy were soon a regular occurrence, with the most notable of these being Father Machuzelli, (who became known as Father Matthew Kelly to the rugged pioneers, who found his Italian name fitted for the change), Father Palmourges, who was the founder of the first parish in Davenport, St. Anthony's, and Father Jean, who was to become the first resident pastor of St. Irenaeus parish. Father Jean, who was pastor of the Catholic church in Bellevue, attended the mission parish regularly until in 1851 Bishop Loras sent him to Lyons to take up residence as pastor of the parish.

(Continued on page twenty-three)

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Father Jean immediately began work on the first church, a small brick structure on the corner of what is now Garfield Street and Twenty-fifth Avenue North. As soon as the church was completed, he turned his attention to a school, and in 1852 a little brick building was finished behind the church. In the fall of 1852 the pastor, who served as teacher, found twelve children waiting for Catholic education.

The little parish grew rapidly, and after only four years had outgrown the little church. A larger frame building was erected on the south-east corner of the present church grounds, but in only a few years it too was too small. A still larger frame church was built on the site of the present church in 1860, and served as the home of the parish for about four years.

On May 1, 1864, Bishop Smyth, of Dubuque, laid the corner-stone for the present Gothic cathedral, modeled after the beautiful cathedral of St. Irenaeus in Lyons, France. In less than twenty years the parish had grown from the little band that first congregated in the log cabin to one requiring the present church. Included in the cornerstone were the names of leaders of the church and state, two pieces of silver, and a copy of the old Lyons "Mirror". Pope Pius IX was head of the church at the time, and Bishop Smyth was bishop of Iowa. Abraham Lincoln was president of the United States, Governor Kirkwood the governor of Iowa, and Mayor Heinrich was the mayor of Lyons.

All of the work of construction was done by the members of the parish. The native sandstone was hewn from the bluffs north of the city, and hauled to the site of the church in horse-drawn carts. In 1871 the building was completed at a cost of \$45,000.

One of the marvels of the building is the fact that not one pillar or brace of any kind is seen to support the huge ceiling. The buttress type of brace is used.

Father Jean, who had returned to his native France shortly before the church was built, returned with a beautiful golden replica of the crown of France, a gift of the Bonapart family to

(Continued on page twenty-seven)

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Clinton, Iowa

the parish of St. Irenaeus. This relic now hangs in the church as the sanctuary lamp. The twelve large stained-glass windows on the north and south sides of the church show the twelve apostles of Christ.

In 1906, Reverend James Comerford, who served the parish for about thirty years, saw that the changing times had made the west end of the building more suited for the main entrance, and began work on the reversal of the interior to bring about this change. North Second Street had replaced Roosevelt Street as the main street of the city, and the large number of steps leading to the east entrance worked a hardship on many of the older members of the parish. The altar was moved from the west end to the east end of the church, and the entire interior was reversed. This change made the entrance easily accessible from the trolley and the main street, and eliminated the steps leading to the doors.

The present pastor, Reverend Edward F. Jackson, came to the parish in the summer of 1933, and almost immediately began a major improvement campaign. The grounds were landscaped, and the church basement made into social rooms as the first step in this project. The war halted any more work, but in 1944 the school and rectory were given their present simulated stone coatings.

In 1947 the work of remodeling the interior of the church was begun, and is just now completed. The walls were coated with simulated stone to match the beautiful exterior of the building. Plaque-like stations of neutral color and five foot Gothic chandeliers of copper and bronze were hung. These fixtures contain amplifiers for the public address system that was installed. All of the statues were redecorated, a cork-stone floor was laid, and the kneelers padded with foam rubber. A mothers room, for the convenience of mothers with infants, was furnished in the rear of the church. The ceiling was decorated with simulated wooden beams, and eight plaques were placed on the walls of the sanctuary.

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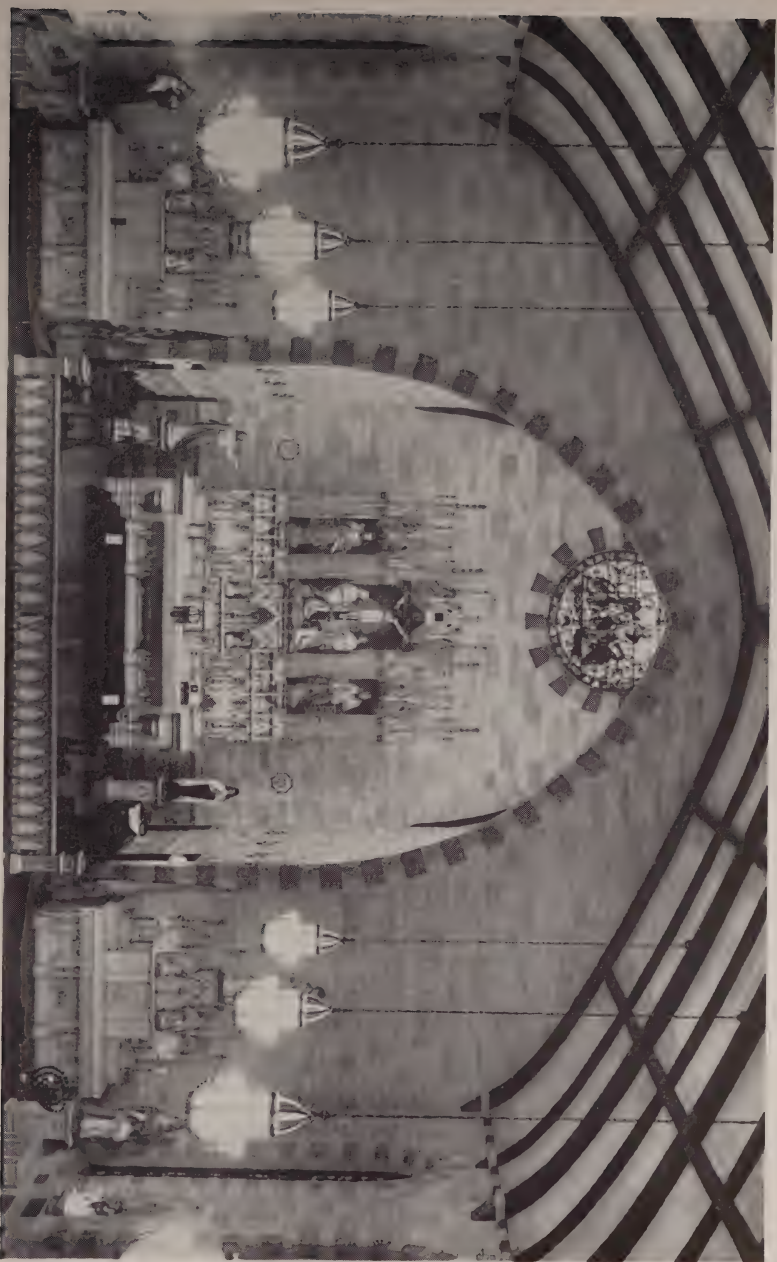
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The committee for church improvements, which has been active since plans were first made for the redecoration of the church is made up of the following —

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St. Irenaeus School

St. Irenaeus parish not only had the first Catholic church in Clinton County, but also the first parochial school. Shortly after the first church was built, Father Jean supervised the construction of a small brick building on Garfield Street north of Main Avenue (Fourth and Main), which was used as a school. The opening of the school in 1852 found 12 children ready to receive a Catholic education, with the pastor serving as the first teacher.

Shortly after the completion of the present church building, the school was opened in the basement. At that time only the boys of the parish attended the school. Classes were held in these rooms until 1892, when part of the present school building was built. Shortly after the building was completed in its present form. The Sisters of Charity, BVM, served the school from Our Lady of Angels Academy. For a period the nuns lived in the present sexton's home, but for a number of years now have been at the Academy.

In 1944, as part of the major improvement plan of the parish, the school was redecorated and a stone-coat exterior was added.

The present enrollment of the school is 175, a far cry from the humble 12 who first reported to the little brick building in 1852.

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 REVEREND EDWARD F. JACKSON;
 REVEREND FRANK J. BARRY
 REAR, LEFT TO RIGHT—REVEREND FRANCIS LOLLICH; REVEREND
 CHARLES SHEPLER; REVEREND JOHN HANNAHER, S. V. D.;
 REVEREND WILBERT B. SONDAG, ASSISTANT PASTOR

Six young men of the parish have entered the priesthood, four in this diocese, one in the Rockford, Illinois diocese, and the sixth in the mission field. These include —

Reverend F. J. Barry, ordained December 18, 1912. Davenport Diocese, retired.



J. LEONARD SLOWIE

Reverend J. L. Slowie, ordained April 17, 1927. Rockford Illinois Diocese. Died October 7, 1932.

Reverend J. W. McEleney, ordained April 24, 1938. Davenport Diocese.

Reverend F. E. Lollich, ordained May 2, 1940. Davenport Diocese.

Reverend J. W. Hannaher, S. V. D., ordained August 15, 1942.

Reverend C. C. Shepler, ordained September 18, 1943. Davenport Diocese.

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Margaret Cahill	Sister Mary Calista, O.S.F., deceased
Bridget Hand	Sister Mary Lidwina, B.V.M., deceased
Katie Hannaher	Sister Mary Augusta, B.V.M., deceased
Clara Madden	Madam Clara Madden, R.S.H., deceased
Anna Maloney	Sister Mary Vivian, B.V.M., deceased
Birdie Ruddy	Mother Mary Fidelis, O.S.F., deceased
Sarah Ruddy	Sister Mary Helen, O.S.F., deceased
Cecelia Ruddy	Sister Mary Ursula, O.S.F.
Libby Kenny	Sister Mary Elinor, B.V.M.
Pearl Kenney	Sister Mary Emilian, B.V.M.
Mary Henle	Sister Mary Victoire, B.V.M.
Mary Murphy	Sister Mary Amata, B.V.M., deceased
Anna Purcell	Sister Mary Verona, B.V.M.
Bernadine Purcell	Sister Mary St. Gilberta, B.V.M.
Mary Hand	Sister Mary Athanse, B.V.M.
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Louise Sheehan	Sister Mary Georgellen, B.V.M.
Kathleen Barry	Sister Mary Michael, R.G.M., deceased
Evelyn Sheridan	Sister Mary Louise, B.V.M.
Catherine Hannaher	Sister Mary Clarice, B.V.M.
Vivian Manemann	Sister Mary Ann Geraldine, B.V.M.
Lillian Kaferstein	Sister Mary Vincentia, B.V.M.
Dorothy Zimmerman	Sister Mary Geraldine, B.V.M.
Loretta Foster	Sister Mary Virginette, B.V.M.
Laura Hand	Sister Mary Bertin, B.V.M.
Catherine Taylor	Sister Mary Emerita, B.V.M.
Delia Britt	Sister Mary Philomene, O.S.F.

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FRIEND

Cemetery Improvements

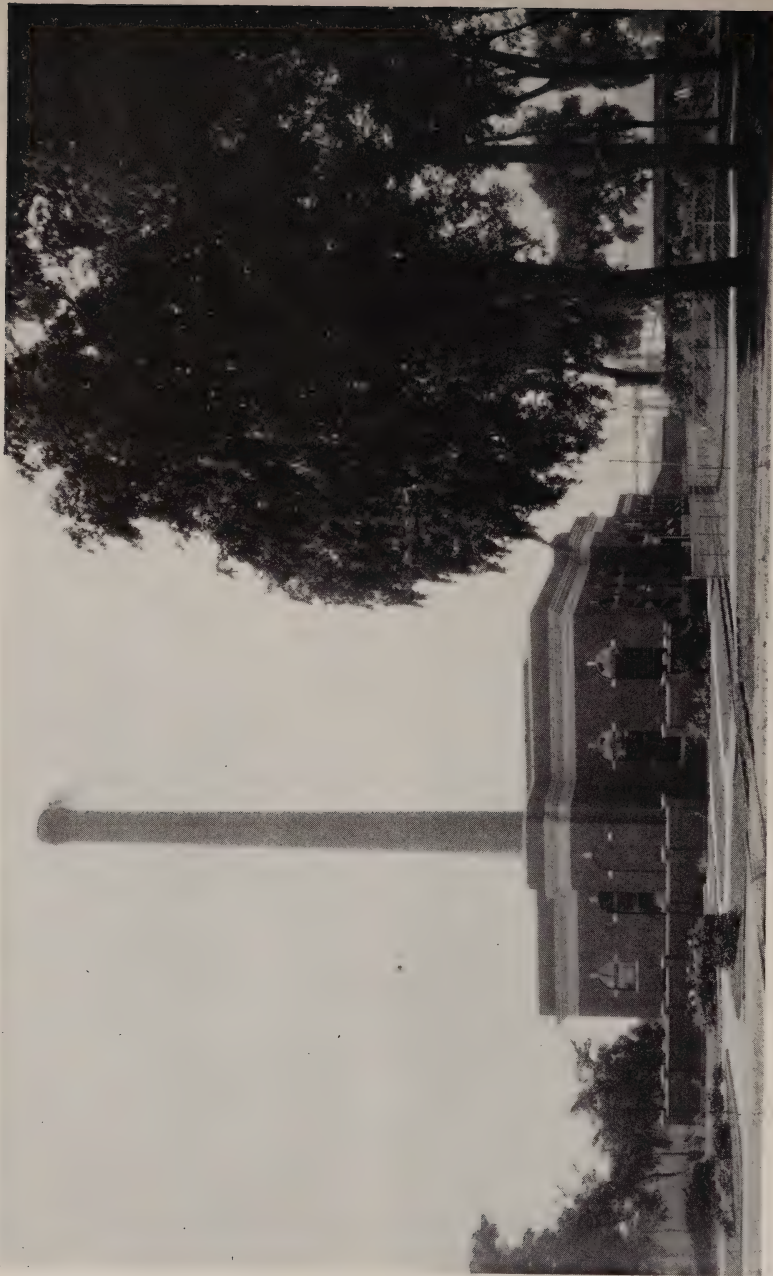
St. Irenaeus has had its own cemetery since the earliest days of the parish. In about 1855 Edward Gillon donated 40 acres of land west of the city for that purpose, to be known as the Mill Creek Burying Grounds. The name of this cemetery was later changed to Holy Cross Cemetery.

Late in the 1870's Reverend W. W. Dunn, pastor of the parish at the time, arranged for the purchase of Calvary cemetery. A stock company was formed by members of the parish, which bought the land north of the city, platted the lots and sold them. The land and the money from the sale of lots was then turned over to the church. When this new grounds was opened, the old Holy Cross cemetery was abandoned, and allowed to be over-run by weeds and neglect.

When the present pastor, Reverend Edward F. Jackson, came to the parish in 1933, he found Calvary cemetery almost full, and Holy Cross cemetery in a state of complete neglect. Improvement of these conditions became a necessary part of the general parish improvement plan. Additional land adjoining Calvary Cemetery was purchased and platted. Holy Cross Cemetery was cleared off, and the stones restored.

The new section was named St. Irenaeus Cemetery, part of it was available for immediate use, and the remainder leased out for upkeep. St. Irenaeus-Calvary Cemetery now embraces the entire triangle between Highway 67 and the two Eagle Point Park roads north of the city.

The present parish committee in charge of cemetery operations consists of B. H. Manneman and Fay Campbell.



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Active Organizations

Five organizations are active in the parish for the spiritual and social development of the members. The Holy Name Society is made up of all the men of the parish and the Altar and Rosary Society consists of the women of the parish. There is a parent-teacher organization for the betterment of the school. A C. Y. O. for high school students and the Children's Sodality in our own school take care of the religious and social life of the children.

Officers of the various societies for 1948 include —

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

President	-	-	-	-	-	Leonard Cossman
Vice-President	-	-	-	-	-	Warren McEleney
Financial Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	Charles Overkamp
Recording Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	Charles Klaes, Jr.
Warden	-	-	-	-	-	Donald Shepler

ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY

President	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. Herbert Hagge
Vice-President	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. August Frett
Secretary-Treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. Francis Kenny

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

President	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. Ed Kennedy
Vice-President	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. Russell Dever
Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. LeRoy Hannafan
Treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	Mrs. Helen Ferguson

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION

President	-	-	-	-	-	Cornelius Mallinger
Vice-President	-	-	-	-	-	Sharon McClintock
Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	Donna Ryan
Treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	James McEleney
Sergeants-at-Arms	-	-	-	-	-	Don Murphy and Kenny Droste

CHILDREN'S SODALITY

Boys Prefect	-	-	-	-	-	Richard Kenney
Girls Prefect	-	-	-	-	-	Donna Horst
Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	Mary Therese Lahey
Treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	James Droste

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Centennial Program

Solemn Anniversary High Mass

10:00 A. M.

Sunday, November 28

Celebrant	- -	Reverend Walter McEleney
Deacon	- - -	Reverend Francis Lollich
Sub-Deacon	- -	Reverend Charles Shepler
Arch-Priest	- - -	Reverend Edward F. Jackson
Master of Ceremonies		Reverend Wilbert Sondag
Address	- -	Most Reverend Ralph Hayes Bishop of Davenport

:::

Thursday, November 18

BAZAAR AND PARTY

Ladies of the Parish

Tuesday, November 23

PARTY

Men of the Parish

Patrons

- Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Horst
and Family
- Mr. and Mrs. John Mulligan
- Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hinz
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Soesbe
- Mrs. H. A. Sino
- Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Foster
- Mrs. James W. Campbell
- Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Bertrand
- E. J. Schlecht
- Miss Margaret Schlecht
- Miss Irene Schlecht
- Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Burke
- Mr. and Mrs. Clemens Manning
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foster
- Phillip F. Burke
- Mr. and Mrs. William Mussman
and Family
- Miss Josephine Mulligan
- Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hand
and Family
- George Lee and Lona
- Mr. and Mrs. Leo Owens
- The Earl Ehrhart Family
- The Ray Horst Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Judge
- Mr. and Mrs. Larry Harrington
- The Charles Shepler Family
- Mrs. Martin J. Madden
- Mr. and Mrs. Joe Paul Conley
- The Herman Krogman Family
- Mrs. Lester Reafsnider
- Mr. and Mrs. Joe Krogman
- Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schneider
- Mr. and Mrs. Howard Foster
- Mr. and Mrs. K. Landstrom
- The P. C. Soesbe Family
- John Zimmerman
- Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Green
- Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Williams
- The Ray McConohy Family
- The J. J. O'Brien Family
- Matt Zimmerman
- Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Thomsen
- Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hannafan
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank McConohy
- John J. McConohy
- Wm. Ligouri McConohy
- Francis Joe McConohy
- Mr. and Mrs. Cleo L. McConohy
- Miss Elizabeth Grimm
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles O'Conner
- Mr. and Mrs. Otto Stuit
- Mr. and Mrs. Dave Jones
- Frank Tolson
- Mrs. Mary Phillips
- Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Phillips
- Mr. and Mrs. Alan Mayer
and Family
- Mrs. N. W. Mungen
- Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Hannafan
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hilgendorf
- The H. J. Droste Family
- Mr. and Mrs. George Jones, Jr.
- Mrs. Joe Conley
- James Paul Conley
- Mrs. Catherine Anglese
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Waldorf
- Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wark
- Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rixen
- Mr. and Mrs. Joe Crowley
and Marian
- Mr. and Mrs. Lee McCutcheon
- Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kenney
- Mr. and Mrs. Karl Spittler
- Mr. and Mrs. John McKenzie
- Mr. and Mrs. Leo M. Petersen

Patrons

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Boysen	Pat G. Phillips
Mrs. Clyde Howes	Mr. and Mrs. Neil Gill and Family
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Meyer	R. E. Buelow Family
Mrs. Helen Fergusen and daughters	Mr. and Mrs. Leon Luckritz and Family
Mrs. Max Nave, Sr.	Mr. and Mrs. Don Shepler
The Wm. A. Becker Family	Mr. and Mrs. John McDonnell
David J. Hagge	Miss Alma H. Nichols
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hagge	Mrs. Wm. C. Nichols
Miss Nan Dunlavey	John N. Ernster
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cain	Mr. and Mrs. John C. Duffy
Mr. and Mrs. John McEleney and Eunice	Mr. and Mrs. Edmund C. Burke
E. J. and Tom O'Brien	Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Burke
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Burns	Mr. and Mrs. Eugene L. Burke
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Collentine	Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Burke
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Jones	Mrs. June Tucking Nelson
Misses Lucy and Winifred Murphy	Mrs. August Becker
Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Murphy	Mrs. B. Dalrymple and Bernard M. C. Lollich
Miss Mary Jane Zimmerman	Louis J. Hilgendorf
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hannafan	Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Borgman
Mr. and Mrs. Frank McDermott	Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Frett
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Shockey	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reusche
H. J. McCarthy	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Trainer
Katherine R. McCarthy	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sullivan
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Leonard Cossman	Miss Nora Quinn
Mrs. Leonard Cossman	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Klaes, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sullivan	Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Klaes, D. C.
Michael J. Cain	Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lyons
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Horst	Tom McCutcheon
Mr. and Mrs. Jake Lehnertz	Mrs. Henrietta McCutcheon
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